Title : Regarding the need to set up a new Southern Freight Corridor to boost the economy of the Country.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): As conceived by the Union Government, Hon'ble Railway Minister has also announced in the Budget that an exclusive freight corridor will be established as Eastern and Western Freight Corridor to give a boost to our Indian Economy. This Freight Corridor Project conceived at the cost of about 22,000 crores of rupees is expected to be taken up a joint venture involving private operators. I would like to lay emphasis that a Southern Freight Corridor is also a must to ensure Union Economic Growth. Tuticorin port in the Southern end of the country is emerging as a Modern port to handle bigger vessels. If an exclusive Southern Freight Corridor is to commence from Tuticorin linking Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kochi, it would be of immense help to industrial leaders. In and around these cities due to hub of industrial activity pertaining to Information Technology (IT) and Economic Processing Zones (EPZ), the need for a Freight Corridor has been felt for quite some time now.

Now, that Setusamudrum Project is on, this Southern Freight Corridor will be of great help to handle increased freight movement when the project is completed. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government, especially the Ministry of Railways to go in for setting up a new Southern Freight Corridor to benefit the emerging Tamilnadu in particular and the entire Southern India.